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SPECIAL REPORT

ON THE STATE OF

JUVENILE EDUCATION

AND

DELINQUENCY

IN THE BOROUGH OF SALFORD.

DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO THOS. AGNEW, ESQ.
MAYOR OF THAT BOROUGH.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A N A P P E N D I X,

CONTAINING

OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF CRIME IN SALFORD, AND IN THE
COUNTRY GENERALLY;

ON RAGGED OR INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS; AND ON REFORMATORY INSTITU-
TIONS FOR CRIMINALS;

AND IN WHICH ARE ALSO NOTICED

THE SCHEMES OF EDUCATION PROPOSED BY THE NATIONAL PUBLIC
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION, AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE MANCHESTER
AND SALFORD MUNICIPAL BOROUGH'S EDUCATION BILL.

BY STEPHEN NEAL,

CHIEF CONSTABLE OF THE BOROUGH OF SALFORD.

SALFORD:

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SPECIAL REPORT, &c.

TO THOMAS AGNEW, ESQ.,
MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF SALFORD.

SECTION I.—AS TO EDUCATION.

Soon after the election of E. R. LANGWORTHY, Esq., as Mayor of this Borough, (which took place in the month of November, 1848,) numerous “juvenile offenders” were apprehended, and taken before him and other magistrates, at the Borough Court, for various criminal offences, for the most part petty larcenies. The neglected education, and the destitute and demoralized condition of many of those offenders, frequently caused painful surprise to Mr. Langworthy, and he expressed a desire that I would make enquiries into their parentage, habits, and training, and report the result thereof to him. I accordingly investigated many of those cases, and reported that, in the majority, the offenders were respectively entirely ignorant of having committed any offence, and that, in consequence of their destitution, they were unable to obtain education, and could not resist the contaminating influences to which they were exposed.

Mr. Langworthy keenly felt the lamentable position of those unfortunate juveniles; and being convinced that in this extensive borough, containing, it may be said, about 70,000 inhabitants, there must be a large number of our juvenile population in absolute destitution, and unable to acquire the

advantages which education and good example can confer, he considered it extremely necessary that accurate information should be obtained of the state of the education of our juvenile population, particularly of those juveniles in destitute circumstances; and he desired me to obtain the requisite information on the subject, and make a special report to him thereon, in order to demonstrate the necessity of carrying out measures for the training and reclamation of our destitute and neglected juveniles, and for the prevention of crime.

It is under these circumstances that my present report "On the State of Juvenile Education and Delinquency in this Borough" has been prepared; and I now respectfully lay the same before your worship.

The various statistics comprised herein, and referring to destitute juveniles and to schools, are not inserted in any publication, nor could I obtain them by any other means than by personal enquiries, and a house-to-house visitation, which I caused to be made for the purposes of this report during the last four months of the past year.—I take this opportunity of thankfully acknowledging my obligations to all those gentlemen who have kindly assisted me by replying to my enquiries.

The following return comprises, with further particulars, all those children, from 2 to 14 years of age, whose education has been neglected, and who belong to and are in the care of parents and guardians, being destitute poor persons, resident within the municipal Borough of Salford, who are not able to pay for the education of such children, for whom a free school ought to be erected. I have divided the juvenile population included in the return into five distinct classes, each of which is materially different from the rest.

Class No. 1 includes children who are destitute and neglected, in care of relations or friends, but generally sent out to beg.

Class No. 2 includes orphans, in care of relations or friends.

Class No. 3 includes children of out-door paupers,—chiefly industrious widows.

Class No. 4 includes children of parents of drunken and dissolute habits.

Class No. 5 includes children of parents who are not paupers, and are of industrious habits. This class is subdivided into three species, namely:—
1st. Children of widows. 2ndly. Children of widowers. And, 3rdly. Children who have both parents living.

Return comprising 1,111 Children, from 2 to 14 years of age, whose education has been neglected, who belong to and are in the care of Parents and Guardians, being destitute poor persons resident within the Municipal Borough of SALFORD, who are not able to pay for the education of such Children.

CLASSES.	Nos. of Children, and Sexes.			Numbers of Children attending Sunday Schools.	States of Instruction.		Average weekly in- comes per head for parents and children, from all sources.
	To- tals.	Males	Fe- males.		Can read imperfectly	Cannot read.	
1. Children destitute and neglected, in care of relations or friends, but generally sent out to beg	15	7	8	1	...	15	
2. Orphans in care of relations or friends	36	17	19	20	8	28	
3. Children of out-door paupers, (chiefly widows of industrious habits,) ..	272	142	130	145	80	192	2s. 0½d.
4. Children of parents of drunken and dissolute habits	44	19	25	8	12	32	
5. Children of parents of industrious habits, who are not paupers.							
1st. Children of widows..	257	147	110	169	99	158	2s. 7½d.
2nd. Children of widowers	88	36	52	48	34	54	
3rd. Children who have both parents living ...	399	190	209	about 100	100	299	1s. 7¾d.
Gross Totals.....	1111	558	553	491	333	778	

The average age of the children included in the preceding return is 7½ years.

As only 333 children out of the total number, 1,111, (or not one-third of the whole,) can read only imperfectly, it may safely be inferred that but a very small number indeed can write at all.

Only 491 children, (or not one-half of the whole,) attend Sunday schools, and do not attend day or evening schools. Some of these children have come under my notice, and it appeared that Sunday-school instruction alone had accomplished but little.

The children comprised in classes 1, 2, 3, and 4, have had their education neglected to a fearful extent, caused, so far as I have been able to ascertain, mainly by the poverty and neglect of their parents and guardians.

The children comprised in the fifth class are, generally speaking, a little superior in their habits and dispositions than those comprised in the other classes, which probably arises from good parental conduct. The education of this class has, however, been also very much neglected, and the majority of the children comprised in it are almost as ignorant as those in the other classes.

About 100 widows, parents of children in classes 3 and 5, are known to use mangles as a means of supporting themselves and their families.

I have, during the last eight or ten months, attentively watched the careers of many of the children who are included in the foregoing return, and have been an eye-witness of the deplorable consequences which have resulted from the want of good government at home, and of education at school. I know many children who daily wander about the streets in ragged clothes, committing moral and frequently criminal offences, and thus gradually becoming more depraved and vicious, and who appear literally as outcasts and vagabonds unknown and uncared for. It has very often been my duty, and also the duty of the officers under my charge, to caution boys for misbehaviour in the streets, and many have been brought to me, at the Police Office, that I might reprimand them for such misbehaviour. On Sundays, as well as on other days, many boys may be seen in the streets spinning tops, running hoops, playing at pitch and toss, and "shinty," flying kites, and running races, and being guilty of other disorderly conduct equally as dangerous and annoying, of which respectable inhabitants have very much complained. In many cases such disorderly conduct has caused boys to be apprehended, imprisoned, and fined, and they were almost invariably found to be very ignorant, and unable to read or write. The annoyance caused to the public by the offences before alluded to, is much more extensive than I have stated it to be, but I need not now further dwell upon it.

To show your worship all the schools at present in operation in the borough, their sectarian denominations, the numbers and sexes of the scholars, and other important information connected therewith, I have prepared the following returns, which are arranged according to the four municipal wards. The returns have been prepared with as much accuracy as possible; and most of the numerical statements have been supplied by the respective masters of the schools. Probably a few "dame" schools and private boarding schools are omitted, but even if this is so, it cannot make any important variation from the returns.

Returns showing the numbers of Schools in the Four Wards of the Municipal Borough of Salford, the Sectarian Denominations, Numbers and Sexes of the Scholars, and other particulars.

RETURN No. 1.—BLACKFRIARS WARD.

Denominations.	Names.	Situations.	Total Nos. of scholars on books	Boys.	Girls.	Average Ages.	Average Attendances		Children with Parents living.				Orphans.	Well taken care of.	Not well taken care of.
							At Day Schools.	At Sunday Schools.	Both Parents.	Fathers only.	Mothers only.				
Church of England.....	St. Philip's (Infants')....	James-street.....	80	37	43	5	70	...	69	2	9	...	...	80	...
Wesleyan Methodist.....	.....	Irwell-street.....	226	142	84	11¼	93	226	197	8	16	5	...	226	...
New Jerusalem .....	.....	Irwell-street.....	295	150	145	9	225	70	255	13	18	9	...	267	28
Private	{	Irwell-street.....	40	...	40	12	40	...	33	3	4	...	...	40	...
		Wood-street.....	24	15	9	8	24	...	21	2	1	...	...	24	...
		Riding-street.....	25	25	...	10	25	...	24	...	1	...	...	25	...
Gross Totals.....			690	369	321		477	296	599	28	49	14	662	28	28

RETURN No. 2.—CRESCENT WARD.

Denominations.	Names.	Situations.	Total Nos. of Scholars on Bks	Boys.	Girls.	Average Ages.	Average Attendances		Children with Parents living.			Orphans.	Well taken care of.	Not well taken care of.
							At Day Schools.	At Sunday Schools.	Both Parents.	Fathers only.	Mothers only.			
Church of England.....	Christ Church.....	Hulme-street	565	261	304	12	218	347	438	52	66	9	565	...
	Ditto	Hope-street	444	205	239	11	123	444	389	22	27	6	441	3
	Ditto (Girls')...	Hope-street	107	...	107	8	107	...	95	9	3	...	53	54
	Ditto (Boys')...	Hope-street	130	130	...	9 ³ / ₄	130	...	108	11	10	1	130	...
	Ditto (Infants')	Hope-street	150	80	70	5	150	...	140	6	4	...	150	...
	St. Bartholomew's	Regent-street	400	212	188	9	200	400	373	12	14	1	200	00
	Ditto (Infants').....	Regent-street	120	70	50	5	120	...	106	9	5	...	120	2...
Wesleyan Methodist.....	British School.....	Ellor-street	105	65	40	8	105	...	101	2	1	1	105	...
	.....	Regent-street	247	118	129	10	90	247	222	14	8	3	160	87
	.....	Oldfield-road	201	83	118	9	...	201	181	7	12	1	201	...
Independent Methodist {	Hope Chapel	Liverpool-street.....	1300	655	645	7	300	920	237	6	14	2	240	19
	New Windsor Chapel...	George-street	267	138	129	10	66	267	224	18	22	3	264	3
Gross Totals.....			4036	2017	2019		1609	2826	2614	168	186	27	2629	366

RETURN No. 3.—SAINT STEPHEN'S WARD.

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Denominations.	Names.	Situations.	Total Nos. of Scholars on Bks.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Ages.	Average Attendances		Children with Parents living.			Orphans.	Well taken care of.	Not well taken care of.
							At Day Schools.	At Sunday Schools.	Both Parents.	Fathers only.	Mothers only.			
Church of England.....	Saint Philip's	George-street	340	150	190	10	...	340	306	7	24	3	340	...
	Saint Stephen's	Lamb-lane	450	230	220	9	155	450	408	16	24	2	155	295
	Model National	George-street	420	248	172	7	420	...	386	7	24	3	420	...
	Saint Stephen's	St. Stephen's-street	250	170	80	12	...	250	234	4	10	2	250	...
Calvinistic Methodist.....	.....	Great George-street	346	164	182	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	346	311	16	16	3	346	...
Baptist .....	.....	Chapel-street	250	140	110	8	130	120	213	14	21	2	250	...
Presbyterian .....	.....	Chapel-street	832	420	412	10	60	600	828	1	3	...	800	32
Independent Methodist.	.....	Shaw-street.....	80	35	45	9	...	80	74	5	1	...	80	...
	.....	Richmond-hill.....	480	233	247	9	...	480	460	2	17	1	480	...
	.....	25, Bury-street	100	70	30	8	100	...	96	2	2	...	100	...
	.....	Russell-street	115	70	45	11	115	...	105	3	7	...	105	10
Private .....	.....	Brunswick-street ...	152	96	56	8	152	...	143	3	6	...	152	...
Roman Catholic	Saint John's	Cleminson-street ...	700	350	350	...	300	700	*					
Gross Totals.....			4515	2376	2139		1432	3366	3564	80	155	16	3478	337

* No returns given for this and the five following columns.

RETURN No. 4.—TRINITY WARD.

Denominations.	Names.	Situations.	Total Nos. of Scholars on Bks.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Ages.	Average Attendances		Children with Parents living.			Orphans.	Well taken care of.	Not well taken care of.
							At Day Schools.	At Sunday Schools.	Both Parents.	Fathers only.	Mothers only.			
Church of England	Trinity.....	Chapel-street	305	146	159	10	...	225	258	11	33	3	225	80
	St. Stephen's (Infants')	Bombay-street.....	131	81	50	6	131	...	116	7	7	1	131	...
	St. Simon's	Springfield-lane ...	600	290	310	9	...	370	340	11	17	2	370	...
	St. Matthias's	Broughton-road ...	350	165	185	9	105	350	311	24	14	1	205	145
	Ditto (Infants')...	Broughton-road ...	140	50	90	4½	140	...	131	2	7	...	140	...
Wesleyan Methodist .....	.....	Bedford-street.....	420	257	163	7½	290	420	405	4	10	1	290	130
	Ebenezer	Bury-street	289	120	169	12	51	234	277	7	5	...	163	126
	.....	Gravel-lane.....	600	274	326	9	...	600	562	14	21	3	600	...
Primitive Methodist .....	.....	King-street	220	90	130	10	60	160	184	12	15	9	214	6
Independent Methodist {	.....	King-street	120	55	65	10	...	120	114	1	5	...	120	...
	(Infants')...	King-street	179	100	79	6	179	156	157	12	10	...	179	...
Baptist	Mount Zion	Broughton-road ...	120	55	65	6	40	120	119	...	1	...	120	...
Private.....	.....	Stanley-street	12	6	6	7	12	...	11	...	1	...	12	...
	(Infants')...	Eastwood's-court, Garden-lane.....	20	8	12	5	20	...	20	...	...	...	20	...
	Mechanics' Institution..	Chapel-street	47	...	47	10	47	...	47	...	...	...	47	...
Gross Totals			3553	1697	1856		1075	2755	3052	105	146	20	2836	487

SUMMARY OF THE FOUR PRECEDING RETURNS.

Situations of Schools.	Nos. of Schools.	Nos. of Scholars on Books.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendances		Denominations.						Private Schools.		Children with Parents living.			Or- phans	Chil- dren well taken care of.	Chil- dren not well taken care of.
					Church of England.		Protestant Dissenters.		Roman Catholic.		Nos. of Scho- lars.	Nos. of Scho- ls.	Nos. of Scho- lars.	Both Pa- rents.	Fa- thers only.	Mo- thers only.				
					Nos. of Scho- ls.	Nos. of Scho- lars.	Nos. of Scho- lars.	Nos. of Scho- lars.	Nos. of Scho- lars.	Nos. of Scho- lars.										
Blackfriars Ward ...	6	690	369	321	477	296	1	80	2	521	...	...	3	89	599	28	49	14	662	28
Crescent Ward	12	4036	2017	2019	1609	2826	8	2021	4	974	...	...	...	...	2614	168	186	27	2629	366
St. Stephen's Ward.	13	4515	2376	2139	1432	3366	3	1210	6	2238	1	700	3	367	3564	80	155	16	3478	337
Trinity Ward	15	3553	1697	1856	1075	2755	5	1526	7	1948	...	...	3	79	3052	105	146	20	2836	487
Gross Totals...	46	12794	6459	6335	4593	9243	17	4837	19	5681	1	700	9	535	9829	381	536	77	9605	1218

The total number of schools is forty-six, and they have accommodation for 12,500 scholars. The number of schools is made up as follows:—

Day schools.	18
Sunday schools	10
Day and Sunday schools	18
	<hr/>
	46
	<hr/>

The seven infant schools mentioned in the returns are connected with other schools, but are inserted separately.

The discrepancy between the number of scholars on books, (12,794,) and the total number of children with and without parents, and the discrepancy between the first-mentioned number, (12,794,) and the total number of children well cared for, and those not well cared for, have arisen through several of the schoolmasters not having answered some of my questions.

The instruction given in all the schools comprised in the four preceding returns is religious and secular; and as it is required to be paid for, those schools may, on that account, be considered to be inaccessible to destitute juveniles.

The 1,218 juveniles who are not well taken care of, may reasonably be supposed to derive little benefit from their attendance at school.

In addition to those schools, there are three public educational institutions in the borough, viz.—the Free Library and Reading Room in Peel Park, at which an average number of about 100 juvenile and adult persons of both sexes daily attend; and the Mechanics' Institution in King-street, and the Mechanics' Institution in Chapel-street, which have together about 150 subscribers. None of these last-mentioned institutions can be considered to render assistance in the education of ignorant and destitute persons, because the first has no person to teach them, and the latter two are supported by members' subscriptions.

Some of the schools are used as evening schools, at which about 350 persons attend.

The estimated number of juveniles in the borough, from 4 to 14 years of age, is 11,666, or one-sixth of the entire population, which is assumed to be 70,000. It appears, however, from the above summary, that there are 12,794 children entered as scholars in the books of the various schools, being 1,128 more than the estimated juvenile population; but it must be borne in mind, that there are eighteen schools which are *day and Sunday schools*, and that almost all, if not the whole, of the scholars attending them have been returned both as day and as Sunday scholars, and it is through

their thus being returned twice that the large number of 12,794 is made up. The following table shows more accurately the number of juveniles attending, and the number not attending, day and Sunday schools.

THE TABLE BEFORE REFERRED TO.

Estimated number of juveniles under fourteen years of age, (assumed to be one-sixth of the inhabitants,) 11,666

1st.—Day Schools.

Juveniles attending common day schools (see summary, page 11, ante,)..... 4,593

Destitute and neglected juveniles not attending day schools, (see return, page 5, ante,) 1,111

After mature deliberation I think that the residue of the number 11,666 may be properly apportioned as follows :

Juveniles attending superior schools..... 1,000

Juveniles at work 2,000

Juveniles neither at work nor at school, whose education is more or less neglected, through the poverty or neglect of their parents 2,962

11,666

2nd.—Sunday Schools.

Juveniles attending Sunday schools, (see summary, page 11, ante,)..... 9,243

Juveniles not attending Sunday schools 2,423

11,666

From this table it appears that there are 1,111 and 2,962 juveniles, making together 4,073, whose education is very much neglected ; and to this number must be added the number of juveniles supposed to be at work and imperfectly educated, (2,000,) the majority of whom, perhaps, attend Sunday schools, making the total number not properly educated, 6,073.

I have made it my duty, principally with the view of ascertaining the success attending the present modes of instruction in the schools in the borough, to make personal examinations of scholars educated at several of them, and at schools in the adjoining township of Pendleton; and I take this opportunity of stating to your worship that, amongst the number of those scholars, many of them educated on a system devised and published by Mr. William Hill, of Pendleton, have shown a decided superiority in the acquisition and retention of elementary knowledge. It has been found that the system considerably lessens the difficulties attendant upon imparting and acquiring knowledge, difficulties which appear to be a prolific source of the ignorance which daily comes under our notice; and from its having been successful in the schools in which I have seen it taught and tested, as well as in numerous other schools into which it has been introduced, I think it could be made useful in the education of those unfortunate juveniles who are referred to in this report.

SECTION II.—AS TO DELINQUENCY.

The criminal returns of this borough show that there is a large amount of crime committed in it by young persons, a peculiarity which seems to be incident to all large boroughs and other places which have no training and reformatory institutions for destitute juveniles and young criminals.

I have endeavoured to compile a statement of the cost of a small number of juvenile prosecutions in the borough, but I have not been able to do so with sufficient accuracy up to the present time. For an estimate of the enormous expense entailed upon the country by such prosecutions, I beg to refer your worship to a "Letter to the Town Council and Select Vestry of Liverpool," by Edward Rushton, Esq., the stipendiary magistrate of that borough, who has fully proved that juvenile prosecutions are both ineffective and very expensive. Cases precisely similar to those mentioned in that letter have repeatedly occurred in this borough; and the six following local cases of male juvenile offenders are inserted to show that Mr. Rushton's remarks apply forcibly to our own juvenile population.

Case No. 1.—Seventeen years old ; cannot read or write ; apprehended seven times.

Case No. 2.—Seventeen years old ; cannot read or write ; apprehended ten times.

Case No. 3.—Eighteen years old ; cannot read or write ; apprehended seven times.

Case No. 4.—Sixteen years old ; cannot read or write ; apprehended four times.

Case No. 5.—Seventeen years old ; cannot read or write ; apprehended four times.

Case No. 6.—Eighteen years old ; cannot read or write ; apprehended four times.

Each of the above six juveniles has committed felonies, and four of them are now in gaol undergoing terms of imprisonment.

The number of apprehensions of persons under the age of twenty years, for offences committed in the borough in a period of four years, ending on the 31st of August, 1850, is shown in the following table :—

Years.	Totals.	Males.	Females.	Under 10 years of age.		10 years and under 15 years.		15 years and under 20 years.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1847	349	292	57	3	1	98	8	191	48
				4		106		239	
1848	407	312	95	6	...	88	13	218	82
				6		101		300	
1849	373	291	82	4	4	76	7	211	71
				8		83		282	
1850	264	228	36	4	...	53	5	171	31
				4		58		202	
Gross Totals.	1393	1123	270						

I have observed that in cases such as those included in the above table, the offenders were generally very ignorant ; and I have no doubt that the education of the majority of the above 1,393 offenders was such as is generally observed in similar cases—very deficient ; and as many of those offenders have come under my own notice, I know their standard of education to have been very low.

The facts herein stated have fully proved to me that a *free institution* for the training and reclamation of our destitute and neglected juvenile population is much needed. Many gentlemen acquainted with the condition of the borough have expressed to me their opinion that such an institution would be an invaluable boon to those persons for whose especial benefit it is required ; and without one exception, all those parents with whom I have conversed on the subject, and who cannot afford to pay even a trifling sum for the education of their children, would with gratitude send them to a free school.

In concluding this report, I ought not to omit to state that the sad realities of the condition of our destitute juvenile population, which I have endeavoured to show you in their own true aspect, are yet more melancholy than you can almost imagine them to be from the description of them herein given. Such investigations as I have made relative to the subject of juvenile education and delinquency, must satisfy every person as they have satisfied me, that the principal causes by which our prisons are from time to time supplied with their inmates, juvenile as well adult, are not any longer mysteriously hidden from our observation, and that their discovery has increased our imperative duty “to remove from evil influences that class of children who from begging go on to pilfering, filling our gaols and bridewells, and eventually ending their days in one of our penal settlements. The evil is one from which society cannot possibly escape. Crime must either be prevented or punished ; and if the amount be withheld which might have sufficed for the reclamation of the boy, a much larger sum must inevitably be paid for the punishment of the man.” *

Many persons I have known who, in their early years, were placed in circumstances similar to those in which the majority of the destitute juveniles, comprised in the returns before inserted, are now placed, who became at length hardened criminals and inmates of gaols, and the scourge and the shame of society.

STEPHEN NEAL,
CHIEF CONSTABLE.

Police Office, Town Hall, Salford,
April, 1851.

* Annual Report of the Glasgow Industrial School, 1848.

APPENDIX.

КТО ВЪЗМЯЛ

APPENDIX.

SECTION I.—CHAPTER I.

On the present and past State of Crime in Salford, Manchester, and England generally—Great increase of Crime in the Country.

The preceding Report shows the state of juvenile education and delinquency in Salford* as accurately as diligent enquiries have enabled me to describe it; but as the Report has reference only to the juvenile population of that borough, the actual extent of crime therein is not shown. I now propose to treat more fully upon the subject of crime locally and generally, upon its causes, and upon some of the principal remedial measures which have been proposed for its prevention and removal.

A comparative view of the criminal returns for Salford, for a period of five years, from 1845-6 to 1849-50, is shown in the following return, and it enables us to form a correct judgment as to the state of crime therein during that period. The young persons included in the return on page 15 of the report, are also included in the subjoined return.

Return showing the Number of Apprehensions in Salford, for all classes of Offences therein committed, during a period of five years, ending 31st of August, 1850; and showing also the degrees of the Offenders' instruction, and the number of Offenders, respectively discharged by the Magistrates, summarily convicted, committed for trial, and transported, and the number of Robberies reported.

Years.	Totals.	M.	F.	Decrease from preceding years.	Degrees of Instruction.					Discharged by Magis.	Summarily Convicted.	Committed for Trial.	Transported	No. of robberies rept.
					None.	Im-perfcty	Well.	Superior.	Not ascertd					
1845-6 ...	2278	1805	473	.....	762	1016	430	14	56	738	1350	190	6	446
1846-7 ...	1676	1298	378	602	645	768	260	3	...	553	940	183	6	547
1847-8 ...	1714	1287	427	38	663	869	171	11	...	626	944	144	11	667
				{ Increase										
1848-9 ..	1624	1191	433	90	626	909	86	3	...	575	900	149	8	673
1849-50..	1438	1096	342	186	612	786	40	...	...	462	874	102	8	508
GrossTotals	8730	6677	2053	Decrease 840 in 5 years	3308	4348	987	31	56	2950	5008	768	39	2841

* The Municipal Borough of Salford is here meant, and so throughout the Report and the Appendix, unless stated otherwise.

This return exhibits a gradual improvement in the decrease of crime in Salford, during the before-named period of five years ; but this, it must be observed, is only what I may term a negative improvement, and a fallacious conclusion would be drawn from that return if the class of offenders comprised therein, under the head "Committed for Trial," escaped careful examination. That a great decrease in the aggregate number of apprehensions occurred in that period cannot be denied, but the number of persons committed for trial did not undergo any very material decrease, except in the year ending 31st August, 1850, when in that class of offenders there was a decrease of 47 as compared with the previous year, and as compared with the first year of the period, a decrease of 88 offenders ; but it is also shown that, in the last year of the period, there was an increase of 62 felonies, as compared with the first year thereof. Still, however, an improvement has taken place in the criminal character of Salford, through a decrease in the number of apprehensions therein.

The amount of instruction which the offenders are shown to have possessed, exhibits the same convincing argument in favour of general education which is to be found in all other criminal statistics. The majority of the offenders were of the most ignorant classes of the population, and the extent of their instruction is expressively signified by the words "none" and "imperfect." Out of 8,730 persons, apprehended in the five years, 7,656 were almost wholly uneducated, and only 1,076 had received a fair education.

The following return * shows a gradual decrease of crime in Manchester, for a quinquennial period of years, ending in 1849 :—

Years.	Total Population.	Total No. of Apprehensions in each year, including the re-apprehensions of all persons who were taken into custody more than once for separate offences.	Per Centage of the Total Apprehensions on the Population.	Committed for Trial.
1845...	295,277	9,635	3.26	667
1846...	299,382	7,629	2.54	658
1847...	299,445	6,587	2.2	833
1848...	299,445†	6,277	2.09	825
1849...	302,182	4,687	1.55	650

The decrease of crime in Manchester, during the above period, is even greater than it was in Salford, during another quinquennial period, com-

* From the Police Returns of Manchester, 1849, pp. 48—52.

† This number appears to be an assumption, but it is perhaps about the actual number.

prising almost the same months as those of the period selected for Manchester—the decrease, in the latter borough, having been 51.34 on the apprehensions, and, in Salford, 36.4 on the apprehensions. The decrease of crime in Manchester, in the period mentioned, was singularly rapid, and this is the more remarkable on account of the great stagnation of commerce which prevailed, together with much political agitation, for a considerable portion of that time.

Crime in this country generally has increased five-fold since the beginning of this century, and therefore in an immensely larger ratio than the population, which has, during that period, only about doubled itself.

The following table* shows the number of males and females committed for trial in England and Wales, in each of the years therein mentioned, the number convicted, the per centage of convictions on the committals, the number of offenders sentenced to death, those actually executed, and among the latter number those executed for the crime of murder.

Years.	Committed for Trial.			No. convicted.	Convictions per cent.	Sentenced to death.	Executed.	Executed for murder
	Total.	Males.	Females.					
1805	4,605	3,267	1,338	2,783	60.43	350	68	10
1815	7,818	6,036	1,782	4,883	62.46	553	57	15
1825	14,437	11,889	2,548	9,964	69.01	1,036	50	10
1835	20,731	17,275	3,456	14,729	71.04	523	34	21
1841	27,760	22,560	5,200	20,280	73.05	80	10	10
1845	24,303	19,341	4,962	17,402	71.98	49	12	12

The number of convictions, in proportion to committals, is now much greater than formerly. In 1805-6-7-8-9 the convictions amounted to 58.8 per cent., but in the five years, ending with 1845, the proportion was 79.15 per cent. This change is attributable to various causes, such as the allowance of expenses to prosecutors and witnesses, (which has secured their attendance at trials,) the simplification of the laws, the experience of a large body of trained police officers, and the mitigation of the severity of our criminal code.†

* Compiled from Porter's Progress of the Nation, pp. 642—645.

† Ibid.

The great extent of criminality found in the juvenile population of the country has excited, as it should have done, grave apprehensions for the general welfare of society; and it is important to show, in our investigation, into the past and present state of crime, the number and proportion of juvenile offenders.

The following table shows the number of juveniles under 15 years of age, committed for trial in England and Wales, in 1842-3-4-5 :*—

Years.	Totals:	Males.	Females.
1842.	1,672	1,432	240
1843	1,670	1,425	245
1844	1,596	1,391	205
1845	1,549	1,332	217

The next table includes similar statistics up to 1846, and shows a further increase of juvenile crime. The counties mentioned in that table afford a fair view of the proportion of crime in the other counties in England and Wales.† The statements are sufficiently recent to enable us to judge correctly of the present state of the two kingdoms.

	Total of offenders commitd for trial in 1846.	under 15 years.	under 20 years.	under 25 years.	under 30 years.	under 40 years.	under 50 years.	under 60 years.	Above 60 years.	Ages not ascertained
Middlesex, including London,...	4,641	382	1314	1039	605	669	364	143	64	61
Lancashire.....	3,072	166	698	710	504	557	283	95	32	37
England & Wales	25,107	1640	6236	5856	3655	3972	2120	859	456	413

In Middlesex the greatest number of offenders is comprised in the period “aged 15 and under 20.” In Lancashire, the greatest number is in the period “aged 20 and under 25,” and the next greatest number is in the period “aged 15 and under 20.” In England and Wales the greatest number of offenders is in the period “aged 15 and under 20,” and the next greatest number is in the period “aged 20 and under 25.” Thus it is

* See Progress of the Nation, page 656.

† For the proportion of juvenile offenders in Salford, see Report, page 15 ante.

proved that juvenile crime, in this country, very much preponderates, and its proportion between 15 and 20 years of age, as exhibited in the above table, is nearly one quarter of the whole, (or 6,236 offenders of the whole 25,107). “The centesimal proportion of that period of life [to the population] is only 9.9, *i. e.*, not quite one-tenth—in other words, the juveniles aged 15 and under 20 form not quite one-tenth of the population, but they are guilty of nearly one-fourth of its crime!”*

The increase of crime in the *female* population of the country is another symptom highly unfavourable to our progress. The proportion of female offenders generally in England and Wales to that of males has undergone not only a very considerable, but an unvarying and progressive, augmentation for many years. In 1826, this proportion was only 19.9 to every 100 males; in 1846 it rose to 26.5; that is, in the space of 20 years, the proportion of female crime per cent. to male crime increased 6.6. In 1840 the proportion of females committed was 23.7; but, in 1846, it reached 26.5 to every 100 males; that is, the progressive augmentation of female crime was 2.8 per cent. to the amount of male crime in the short period of six years.†

* Juvenile Delinquency, by the Rev. H. Worsley, page 9.

† Ibid, page 11.

SECTION I.—CHAPTER II.

Observations on the causes of Crime—Ignorance—Intemperance—Evils of a Saturday Pay-Day—Mendicancy—Incidental allusions to remedial measures.

The present criminal state of the country is sufficiently startling to cause the anxious enquirer to ask “What causes have produced an increase of crime?” and “What agencies must be applied to rescue us from it?” I will now allude to some of the principal causes of crime, and in doing so I shall have to make incidental references to remedial measures.

Though the connection between innocence and reading and writing is not necessarily close, yet it is found that by far the largest number of criminals comprises the most *ignorant* persons; and hence it is inferred that crime is mainly caused by ignorance.

The return inserted on page 1 of this Appendix proves that the greatest number of the offenders in each year therein mentioned were very ignorant; and this feature is to be found in all other criminal statistics.

In a period of 10 years, from 1836 to 1845, there were committed for trial, in England and Wales, above 258,000 persons of both sexes, and the degrees of instruction of 252,544 of the offenders were ascertained; and out of the whole number there were 229,300 persons, or more than 90 in 100, *uninstructed*; only 1,085 persons had enjoyed the advantages of instruction beyond the elementary degree; and only 22,159 had mastered, without advancing beyond, the arts of reading and writing.*

The general practice in England is to pay operatives' wages on a Saturday, either weekly or fortnightly; but I have for some time been of opinion that much encouragement is thereby given to intemperance; and I will now endeavour to prove that the “Saturday pay-day” is objectionable for many reasons.

The following extracts from the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Lords, on the operation of the acts for the sale of beer, (sessions 1849-50,) are deserving of great attention.

Richard Mayne, Esq., a commissioner of the metropolitan police, states, that the practice, in London, is now to pay the working people very gene-

* Progress of the Nation, page 657.

rally on other days than Saturday. The men in the London docks, the East India docks, in the railway offices, and the breweries, and in the dock yards within the police districts, are paid on Friday. The men in the St. Catherine's docks on Thursday, and those in the Ship building yards generally on Friday. The police are always paid on Wednesday. *He thinks this change has contributed to the sobriety of the parties concerned.* He has never heard that they have given up working on Saturday, in consequence of their receiving their wages on Friday. (Pp. 7, 8).

George Matcham, Esq., one of the chairmen of the quarter sessions for the county of Wilts, says that, in his district, wages are generally paid on Saturday night, and drinking prevails very much on Sunday. (Pp. 35, 36.)

Mr. John May, superintendent of police, Chelmsford, says, he observes always an influx of bad characters at beer houses on Saturday night, and that, on that night, more depredations are invariably committed than on any other night. (P. 4.)

The Rev. G. H. Hamilton, chaplain of the county gaol, Durham, considers that half the crime of that county is committed between Saturday afternoon and Monday morning, and that most of the offences then committed are directly or indirectly connected with drink. (P. 93.)

Mr. Thomas Teal, of Bolton, says that, on Sunday morning, there is most drunkenness in that borough. There are very few instances of drunkenness but on Sunday morning; and those are increased in consequence of parties getting their wages on Saturday night. Many persons have begun to pay on Friday night, so that their work-people may go to market and lay out their money to the best advantage; and it prevents many from drinking, because they have to be at work the day following. (P. 80.)

Mr. Andrews, of Stockport, special high constable, informs me that throughout his division offences against order—drunkenness and the like—are far more prevalent on Saturday and Sunday than on any other day in the week. In the mining districts of that division the operatives are paid fortnightly, after which the Saturdays and Sundays are devoted by great numbers to excess of every kind.

The Rev. J. Clay, chaplain of the Preston House of Correction, informs me that the bulk of Sabbath-breakers are, (among men and women,) those who have been drinking on Saturday night and Sunday.

In Leeds most of the working classes are paid on Friday, and those in Aberdeen generally on Thursday; and in Glasgow, the pay-day was changed from Saturday, because it caused much drunkenness.

To those young men and women who are in the habit of going to music saloons and other similar places of public resort, which may generally be

found crowded by them on Saturday and Sunday evenings, money and leisure hours are two of their worst foes.

The "Saturday pay-day" is, in many respects, destructive of personal and domestic comfort. Buyers and sellers in markets are alike inconvenienced, and if the latter live far from the markets they attend, their arrangements on the Sunday are disturbed. In winter especially, the Saturday pay-day causes much annoyance to hundreds of operatives' wives, who have to purchase provisions between six and twelve o'clock at night; and if they had the money to spend in the forenoon, they would be able to buy better food, and the facilities which persons now have to dispose of unwholesome food by gas-light would, in a great degree, be destroyed.

Nor is it to be forgotten that generally on Saturday nights the streets are infested by prostitutes and thieves to a greater extent than on any other night, and I have no doubt that their pilferings from drunken men are then great. The brawls which occur on Saturday nights are annoying to respectable persons; and the duties of the police-officers are thus very much and very unnecessarily increased.

The following Return shows the number and sexes of the persons taken into custody for drunkenness in Salford, during a period of twelve months, ending on the 31st August, 1850, and shows also the number apprehended on the Saturdays and Sundays of that period, as compared with the Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
No. of persons apprehended for drunkenness in Salford, from 1st September, 1849, to August 31st, 1850	626	441	185
No. of those persons apprehended on Saturdays and Sundays	288	228	60
No. of those persons apprehended on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays	338	213	125
	626	441	185

From this Return it appears that the apprehensions for drunkenness in Salford on the Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, during a period of twelve months, exceeded the apprehensions on Saturdays and Sundays, for the same offence, only 50; and that the apprehensions of male offenders on the two latter days, (228,) actually exceeded by 15 the

apprehensions for the five other days, (213). The Saturday pay-day must, I think, have mainly caused the above disproportion of numbers.

In 1849 there was an increase over the preceding year of 53 offences reported against public houses in Manchester, which was entirely confined to offences committed on Sundays. In 1849, 573 offences were reported against beer houses in Manchester, and the greater proportion of those offences was committed on Sundays.* Within a fraction, the large proportion of *one-fifth* part of the criminal offences committed in Manchester, in 1849, was caused by *drunkenness*. In Salford, in the same year, nearly *one-third* part of the criminal offences therein committed was caused by *drunkenness*; and rather more than *one-third* part of the criminal offences committed in Salford, in 1850, was also caused by drunkenness.

The following Table presents some important pecuniary results, and in compiling it I have supposed that each public-house and beer-house in Manchester and Salford has 20 visitors each Saturday night, who there respectively spend 2s. on the average in intoxicating drink. This allows each house only £2 each Saturday night.

	Man- chester.	Salford.	Totals.
No. of beer-houses and public-houses	1,710	327	2,037
No. of visitors, allowing 20 to each house	34,200	6,540	40,740
Amount spent by them at 2s. each on Sat. nights.	£3,420	£654	£4,074
Amount thus spent on Saturday nights in a year..	£ 177840	£ 34,008	£ 211848

The enormous amount of £4,074 appears, from the above estimate, to be spent every Saturday night in Salford and Manchester, and in the year £211,848! This supposition carried still further shows that there is spent each Saturday night in England and Wales about £192,044; and on the Saturday nights throughout the year almost £10,000,000. To the amount thus estimated must be added the fines imposed on drunkards, and the loss arising through absence from work. The average amount spent by working men in liquor is 24.4 per cent. of their wages.†—The expense of employing policemen to look after drunken persons ought also to be borne in mind. Such are some of the proximate results of the Saturday pay-day.

* See Chief Constable's Report, 1849.

† Silverpen.

The remedy I have to suggest for preventing these evils is, that Thursday or Friday should, in all places, be the pay-day, instead of Saturday ; and that all market and shop purchases should be made before Saturday night.

I have the concurrent testimony of several manufacturers on the benefits of a Friday pay-day ; and one of them informs me that by paying wages on the Friday the work to be done on the Saturday is lessened ; the managers and overlookers have more time to look after cleaning the machinery, and the hands have more time to do it thoroughly, and all connected with the establishment leave sooner and enjoy the half-holiday. Let those who may demur to making the proposed change, endeavour to realize within themselves the happiness it would confer on the poor man's wife, by allowing her to go to market on the Saturday forenoon, instead of the Saturday midnight, especially at an inclement season of the year. And those persons who seek to preserve the sanctity of the Sabbath should not forget that the Saturday pay-day is a prolific source of Sabbath desecration.

The evils which result from intemperance are still greater than has been mentioned in the preceding observations. Few localities in either England or Wales can be pointed to which have well-conducted beer-houses, and so long as the law, which regulates the sale of beer, remains as at present, the labours of temperance societies, ministers of religion, and philanthropists, must, to a considerable extent, be nullified. All our prison reports teem with evidence which proves the bad effects of intemperance ; and great must be the responsibility of any government which gives unnecessary facilities for the demoralization of the people through the agency of intoxicating drinks.*

Mr. Justice Coleridge stated, at the Oxford assizes, that " he never knew a criminal case brought before him which was not directly or indirectly connected with intoxicating liquors." Mr. Justice Patteson said to the jury, at the Norwich assizes, that, " if it were not for this drinking, you and I would have nothing to do." Mr. Justice Erskine stated, at the Salisbury assizes, in 1844, that " 99 criminal cases out of every 100 were through strong drink." Mr. Baron Alderson said to the grand jury, at the York assizes, in 1844, that " a great proportion of the crimes to be brought forward for their consideration arose from the vice of drunkenness alone ; indeed, if they took away from the calendar all those cases with which drunkenness had any

* When a great increase of consumption took place in consequence of the reduction of the tax on ardent spirits, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer congratulated the House of Commons and the country on this proof of increased prosperity.—*See Report of Parliamentary Committee on Drunkenness, 1834, p. 344.*

connexion, they would make the large calendar a very small one." Mr. Justice Wightman, in his address to the grand jury at Liverpool, in 1846, said, "that he found, from a perusal of the depositions, that the unfailing cause of four-fifths of these crimes was, as it was in every other calendar, the besetting sin of drunkenness." And the same learned judge, so recently as at the Liverpool assizes in August, 1850, said that, "in nine-tenths of the cases which would come before the court, the primary date was from some public-house or beer-shop; and he could not but express his deep regret at the encouragement given to the evil communication of the idle and the dissolute, and the contamination of the honest and industrious, by the institution of beer-shops in which the liquor was drunk upon the premises. The depositions exhibited some most striking instances of the frightful consequences of the evil to which he had alluded—of domestic duties set at nought—of quarrels exasperated by drink, ending in personal violence, frequently fatal—of unhappy children utterly neglected and abandoned—of wives cruelly ill-treated, kicked and beaten, even unto death, and for no other fault than endeavouring to recall their husbands from their selfish and ruinous extravagance and drunkenness, leading inevitably to that extreme distress and poverty which, added to the recklessness produced by intemperance, ended in the lowest state of crime and degradation."

Another principal cause of crime arises from the extensive body of vagrants which infest the country. This body comprises, amongst others, tinkers, match sellers, vendors of ribbons, laces, and other light articles, many of whom are persons of the most abandoned character, who roam about and subsist mainly by stealth, and others of the class are too idle or dissipated to work for their livelihood, and subsist by begging, or pilfering, as occasion may offer. It is well known that vagrants are in general the accomplices of thieves and itinerant gamblers. The class known as *tramps* "seldom venture upon the daring acts of the trained thief, but are content to live from day to day upon the petty gains which they filch from the unwary, or coax from the good-natured. They furnish about 13 per cent. to the [Preston] sessions."* Many parents are known to train up their children to a life of vagrancy, and prefer to subsist on the means thus dishonourably gained to those obtainable by honest industry; and some parents are so brutal as to maltreat their children unless a specific sum is brought home by them every night. Many vagrants undoubtedly acquire large gains by their nefarious pursuits; and the accounts we have of many of them show that

* Report of the Rev. J. Clay, 1850, p. 34.

they live in their wretched and filthy abodes in a most luxurious manner, seemingly in happiness, though not in cleanliness. Though clad in rags, they enjoy advantages which the honest and toiling labourer cannot obtain; and in my experience I have found that immediately after a vagrant has been apprehended, he is followed by one or more of his class, who bring to him, at the Police Office, an ample supply of excellent food.*

It is much to be feared that vagrancy offences have not in the least diminished, as may be inferred from the statements next quoted. The extent to which *dog carts* are now employed, by vagrants and thieves, imperatively demands that the legislature should at once render the use of those carts positively illegal. As the law now stands, it is only when cruelty to a dog is practised, that an offence is committed; but the provisions made in sections 2, 13, and 19, of the last act for the prevention of cruelty to animals, (12 and 13 Vic., c. 92,) are sufficient to enable the police, and the public generally, to obtain a conviction against almost every owner of a dog cart; and if the police alone more frequently interfered in these cases, the number would soon decrease.

John Flanagan, a transport convict, gives the following particulars† concerning dog carts.

“If there’s one, there’s now, in Manchester, *sixty* ‡ men that *travel* with dog carts from fair to fair, and from market to market, and from races to races. They travel through almost all England, having one or more boys with them. They have with them some cutlery or china ware to set out on a stall; some of these boys are own children to women that have stalls; and the boys will be *wiring* about the stalls, and if any woman was to suspect one of those boys, the mother would say. ‘My good woman you *must* be mistaken, for that’s my own boy.’ These women put away bad crowns and half-crowns in exchange for sovereigns. I knew a woman named Margaret Ridgway, who has three boys, and the youngest *wires* for

* A friend just now tells us of an old beggar, accomplished in his vocation, who used to lament over the degeneracy of the age, saying “that men, now-a-days, did not ken how to beg; that Kelso *weel* beggit was worth 15s. ony day.”—*A Plea for Ragged Schools*, by the Rev. J. Guthrie, page 10.

We say, with Daniel Defoe, that begging is a shame to any country; if the beggar is an unworthy object of charity, it is a shame that he should be *allowed* to beg; if a worthy object of charity, it is a shame that he should be *compelled* to beg.—*Ibid.*

† From the Rev. J. Clay’s Report, 1850, p. 20. See also pp. 13 and 15.

‡ This account may seem an exaggeration, but I am inclined to attach credit to it, having seen in May last, between 20 and 30 of these characters, with their gambling apparatus, &c., collected on the occasion of an annual festivity at the little village of St. Michael’s-on-Wyre.—*Mr. Clay’s note.*

his mother and two brothers. The only girl this woman had, got seven years, for robbing a farmer's daughter in Cambridge. Her husband dropt down dead in the street at Wakefield, when he had a lot of bad sovereigns in his belt; this happened about ten years ago; I have often heard both herself and other persons tell the story. This gave her no warning, she still carries on the same career of life, she and the two elder boys *cloaking* the younger one. They travel with a cart and three dogs; she goes by many different names. She has told me and her boys that she has done above eighteen years' imprisonment in England, Wales, and Scotland. She is sometimes dressed like a farmer's wife, and sometimes like an old widow lady, and her sons are dressed sometimes like farmers, and sometimes like gentlemen's sons. I knew also a man who had a dog cart capable of covering four people; he has been a race runner. Buckley, together with two women, belonged to this man's gang. They had two carts, and sometimes a hawker's license a-piece to screen them from suspicion, and to show they were honest men.

John O'Neill, another transport convict, says that "the men that go about with dog carts are gamblers, and are up to all kinds of roguery. They have not courage to rob themselves, but they will often set on a *little* lad who has got anything by thieving, and make him give it all up."

Thomas O'Gar, another transport convict, says that "the men who go about with dog carts are a bad set; they reckon it a great thing to be *thick* with a pick-pocket, they get *treated* by him."

Undoubtedly, a very great proportion of the juvenile crime of the country is caused by young persons attending low theatres and music saloons, at which licentious ribaldry, disobedience to parents, indulgence in sensual gratifications, and other debasing actions, are held up to the admiration of the juvenile auditory, as worthy of being imitated by them.

Juvenile and adult offenders would not be so numerous, if there were fewer opportunities afforded them for the disposal of stolen property. In Salford and Manchester there are 151 reputed houses for the reception of stolen property. It, therefore, appears advisable to make all such houses open to the frequent inspection of the police.

I have already mentioned the prevalence of *female* crime in the country, and I again refer to it to prove that depravity in females produces an evil of the extent of which we can form but an imperfect judgment. It would be easy for me to adduce cases in which parental misconduct has exercised

the most baneful influence upon children ; but the fact is now so universally established and admitted that I consider it unnecessary to mention cases. Depraved conduct on the part of a wife, or mother, tells with terrible force on those around her. It is the *wife* who has it in her power, in almost all cases, to preserve the good character of her husband and herself ; it is the *mother* who almost invariably gives the first impulse to her offspring to act either honestly or dishonestly. Her neglect of domestic duties is generally the first cause which estranges her husband from his own fireside, and compels him to take refuge in the excitement of the tap-room ; and amongst her children she soon loses her position, when they have discovered that she has ceased to respect herself, her position, and her family. The first act of filial disobedience is not censured ; another soon succeeds, and rudeness at home generally leads to rudeness and other improper conduct in the public streets ; and the watchful eye of the mother, which ought ever to be fixed on her offspring to prevent that evil communication which corrupts good manners, remains closed while depravity and crime gradually destroy the beings to whom she has most unworthily given birth. I am, indeed, firmly convinced that that portion of our female population—the lowest—which is most liable to become tainted by crime ought to receive *immediate* attention.

As connected with parental misconduct, I may also state that inattention to children is almost sure to be recorded in police statistics ; and accordingly I find that, in 1849, 1,212 lost children were reported to the police force in Salford. In Manchester, during the year 1846, 4,265 children were reported lost in the streets, of whom 2,099 were found by the police, and the rest by friends. In the same borough, during 1849, 4,400 children were reported lost, of whom 1,799 were found by the police, and restored to parents and nurses. It is impossible for me to say how many of those children got astray through parental neglect ; but I find that the majority of lost children belong to inattentive parents.

Amongst the causes of crime which have their origin in personal neglect, I may here expressly notice the objectional practice of exposing goods at shop doors, and the extensive neglect which is found by the police in unfastened doors, shutters, coal grids, &c. at night. It is not surprising that robberies do occur, but it is surprising that a great many more do not occur. To such an extent is this neglect carried in Salford that I have found it necessary to draw the attention of each householder to the fact by a formal notice ; and when any case of the kind now occurs, the owner or tenant of the house, &c. is apprised thereof soon afterwards by a note.

The police in Manchester have to contend with the same difficulty. "On one occasion when the police examined the coal grids of all houses within that borough, they found nearly 1400 unfastened; and although in such cases the inhabitants were informed of the state in which the coal grids had been found, yet on a subsequent examination made shortly afterwards, nearly 1300 grids were again found insecure."*

The number of buildings, &c. found insecure by the Manchester police during 1849, amounted to 3545, of which 904 were warehouses, shops, and houses, containing property in which no persons resided, and 2011 of warehouses, shops, and houses, containing property in which persons did reside. †

The practice of incautiously leaving clothes upon unprotected drying grounds also causes many robberies, particularly by young persons and vagrants.

Much encouragement is also given to thieving by persons, especially ladies, having insecure pockets; by persons going to concert rooms, theatres, fairs, public-houses, and banks, with articles of jewellery, or sums of money improperly secured, and through exposing purses to observation at railway stations, and other public places. ‡

Thus, in reality, a great deal of the loss and annoyance suffered by the public through the depredations of thieves, arises from *neglect*.

* Chief Constable's Report, 1849, p. vi.—† Ibid, p. vii.

‡ Richard Clarke, a transport convict, said that he, his sister, and two other persons were apprehended on suspicion and discharged; the police said "they would see us out of the town, so they went to the station with us, and while we were there, the police being by, Ellen, [the sister,] picked a woman's pocket of £1. *There is more got now at the railway stations than anywhere. It takes a sharp policeman to catch any one there. Purses are taken out so often that we know where to go for them; it is not like having to feel for them.*"—From the Rev. J. Clay's Report, 1850.

At the last concert given by the Hargreaves Society in Manchester, two noted thieves forced themselves into the concert room when the auditors had their attention engrossed by seeking bonnets, cloaks, &c.; and it was only the timely interference of the detective police which prevented the theft of personal ornaments, and any other valuable articles, then accessible; and instances of this kind are of daily occurrence.

SECTION II.

Remedial Measures—Industrial Schools useful—Aberdeen Industrial School—Enormous Expense of Crime—Schemes of the National Public School Association, and the Committee of the Manchester and Salford Municipal Boroughs' Education Bill—Patronage Society and Salles d'Asile in Paris—Prisoners' Relief Societies—Conclusion.

Out of two unavoidable necessities, society has now the choice of one or the other, viz.—either to allow crime of all degrees to increase in the country, and to commit devastations, hitherto without parallel in civilized history, or to commence a system of thorough expurgation, as well for the benefit of criminals themselves, as for society generally.

To effect a reform in our criminal population it has been proposed, first, to train up the rising generation in a manner which will prevent, as far as possible, further accessions to the already formidable ranks of the “dangerous classes;” and, secondly, to reform all persons who are addicted to criminal practices.

Crime entails upon the community a *positive pecuniary loss*; and irrespective of moral considerations, though all-important in themselves, this pecuniary loss sufficiently justifies the exertions now being made to prevent and remove crime.

To prevent and remove crime in the rising generation is of paramount importance; and as the boy makes the man, we must prevent the boy from indulging in criminal propensities, before we can reasonably expect him to live his life through untainted by crime.

Crime must be prevented and removed in some measure by *educating* the low classes of the population. For this purpose Industrial Schools have been established, and with very great success, in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Bristol, and other places. These schools are intended to afford food and shelter during the day to those juveniles who have no apparent means of subsistence, except by begging or pilfering. Instruction is therein given in the elementary branches of knowledge, and in some industrial occupation, so as to qualify and induce the scholars to rely upon an honest, instead of a dishonest, occupation for a livelihood.

In June, 1841, there were 280 children in Aberdeen under 14 years of age, who maintained themselves professedly by begging, but partly by theft; of whom 77 were committed to prison during the previous twelve

months for crime of one kind or another. “ It was abundantly clear that while they continued to pursue this mode of life, there was no prospect of their ever becoming useful members of society. To reclaim them—to put their feet, as it were, on the first step in the path of usefulness—it was obvious that any institution which was really to benefit them, must provide them with food—with training in some industrious employment—and with instruction; for these three things were all required to be furnished to them, in order to have a hope of reclaiming them.

“ It is manifest mockery to offer a starving child training or instruction, without *first* providing him with food; if you do so, the child feels in his heart that you do not really love him, and no eloquent arguments, on the beauty and excellence of your instructions, will persuade him that you truly desire to do him good. There is an unanswerable argument at work within him, which admits of no reply but one—you must first supply his bodily need, before you can expect him to receive your instructions. It is equal mockery to such a child, who sees no work, no industry at home, to teach him, by precept, the advantages of industry and diligence in following out a lawful calling. You speak to him in an unknown language—of things which he cannot comprehend. If you intend him to be an industrious member of society, you must train him up in the habit of industrious labour suited to his years; thus availing yourself of that precious principle implanted in us by our Creator, which is implied in the injunction, accompanied by a promise, ‘ Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.’ ” *

An industrial school was established in Aberdeen, in October, 1841, by Sheriff Watson, and in the years 1841-2-3-4 it was not very successful. The children were admitted on the application of parents or friends, and were at liberty to come or go at pleasure. There were no means of securing their regular attendance, except the attractions of food and school training, which were sufficiently powerful to draw together a considerable number; but the vicious, the worthless, and the determined beggar despised the invitations of the founders of the school. They at last proposed to the magistrates that the police should be authorised to apprehend all begging children within the city, and convey them to the school. The magistrates concurred, on the founders becoming responsible for the legality of the proceeding, and the police were authorised accordingly. On the forenoon of the 15th of May, 1845, the police apprehended 75 children, (boys and girls,) caught in the act of begging in Aberdeen; and in a few hours

* From an Account of the Aberdeen Industrial Schools, by A. Thompson, Esq.

juvenile vagrancy was finally extinguished in that city, and it has never raised its head again.

The following Table shows a surprising improvement in the juvenile population resident within the rural police division of the county of Aberdeen.

Years.	Nos. of Juvenile <i>Vagrants</i> apprehended.	Nos. of Juvenile <i>Delinquents</i> , under 12 years of age, committed to prison.
1841	321	61
1842	297	22
1843	397	53
1844	345	41
1845	105	49
1846	14	28
1847	6	27
1848	6	19
1849	1	16

These figures demonstrate that some agency has been at work to diminish juvenile vagrancy and delinquency since 1845, which had not been in perfect operation before. By the activity of the police, the system of sending out children to beg has ceased to be profitable in Aberdeen, and has therefore been abandoned; and by the establishment of the admirable school of industry, where food and education are provided for this unfortunate class of people, even the shadow of an excuse for sending out children to procure subsistence by begging has been taken away.

During the year 1844-45, the average daily attendance at the school was $51\frac{1}{4}$; the earnings amounted to £71 6s. $11\frac{1}{2}$ d., or £1 7s. $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. per head. The total expenditure was £309 4s. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d., or £5 18s. 10d. for each scholar, and deducting earnings, £4 11s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. each.*

The work in which the children in the Liverpool Industrial School are employed is sorting bristles, making and printing paper bags, for chemists, grocers, and confectioners, netting, making clogs, and mending their own clothes.

In Paris there are certain institutions called “Salles d’Asile,” which have been established solely for children of the poor classes. Children from two

* For the support of scholars in food, scraps of wholesome animal and vegetable meat might be collected from many persons; and the food incautiously given to vagrants could be given to more worthy persons at the industrial schools. Donations of meat and cast-off clothing would much reduce the expense of industrial schools.

to seven years of age are there instructed in secular and religious knowledge, and a meal or meals are provided for each child. The salles d' asile are under the inspection of a committee of ladies of high rank in society, who watch over them with zeal and care. Their functions are not confined to watching over the intellectual and moral states of the pupils, but the ladies here form the chiefs of the establishment, and provide for all the wants, not only of the children in regard to clothing, but also those of the parents who may be in extreme poverty. Not unfrequently do the ladies themselves carry their benevolent donations to the homes of the wretched.*

The exertions of benevolent ladies, in connection with industrial schools in this country, would do much good.

Free evening schools are required for those persons who are employed in factory and other labour during the day. Young persons, in particular, should carry on in evening schools the education they have commenced in elementary schools.

By the retention of a small weekly sum out of the wages of operatives, employers might, to some extent, ensure the advantages of school instruction to many children.† Doubtless *poverty* prevents many poor children being sent to school; but there are thousands of working men who consider themselves very poor, who, nevertheless, spend in drink, tobacco, and snuff, twice as much money as would pay for a good education for themselves and their children.

It may be useful to show now that education, as a public burden, is cheaper than crime.

The municipal council of Liverpool made an enquiry, some years ago, into the extent and expense of crime in that borough, and it has been in-

* Frégier, des Classes Dangereuses, v. 2.

† Employers, by giving a preference to educated workmen, would further the cause of education very much.

“A movement is going on in Manchester which seems to promise well. The members of 127 firms have announced their determination to give a preference in employment to such hands as can read and write. This will overcome, to a great extent, the indifference to education so prevalent among the parents, which has been the greatest hindrance to education among the working classes; and perhaps it is going as far in encouraging education as is possible without making it compulsory.”—*Government Report on Education*, 1848.

“A weekly sum of 4d. is deducted from the wages of each working man at the iron works of Sir John Guest & Co., at Dowlais, in Wales, and out of the money thus raised, not only are the schools attached to the works partly supported, but medical advice and other charitable aids are given to each scholar that requires them.”—*Ibid.*

ferred, from the result of the enquiry, that the annual contribution forced from that borough by thieves is about £700,000.

Mr. Rushton, in his letter to the select vestry and town council of Liverpool, refers to the cases of fourteen juvenile delinquents, who were from time to time committed to the prison there. Those cases were fairly selected, in the year 1842, from the mass of juvenile prisoners then in that prison; and in 1846, when those fourteen offenders were again enquired after, it was found that ten of them had been transported; one was dead; one was again in custody; one was at large, a prostitute; and of the remaining one nothing was then known. Up to the time of the enquiry in 1842, these 14 offenders had cost the public in prosecutions, &c. £889 1s.; and to that sum must be added the amount lost through their depredations when out of prison, which cannot be accurately estimated, but which, in Mr. Rushton's opinion, may be taken at a sum equal to the former cost, so that those 14 children probably cost Liverpool no less than £1,778 2s. When to this sum are added the costs of the apprehension, detention, and imprisonment of the children up to 1846, the amount before mentioned is further increased, and still more so when we add to it the costs of transportation.

In the Rev. J. Clay's report for 1850, a statement is given which shows that 15 pickpockets, who had respectively an average career of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ years out of prison, robbed the public to the extent of £26,500.

The expense of maintaining and punishing prisoners in the Liverpool Borough Gaol is about £15. 10s. each per annum. The expense of a scholar in the Liverpool Industrial School is about £6 per annum, and in the Aberdeen Industrial School about £4 12s. The contrast is sufficiently striking without comment.

I find from the published returns of the receipt and expenditure of Salford and Manchester, for the year 1849-50, that the expense incurred in the detection and punishment of 6,311 offenders in that year was, in the aggregate nearly £60,000* for the two boroughs. The police returns show that, after allowing for stolen property recovered, the further sum of £5,052 17s. 3d. was lost to the inhabitants through felonies; and, consequently, the total amount lost and spent through crime was £65,053 in round

* This sum includes salaries of magistrates, interest on the Manchester Borough Gaol loan, expenses at sessions and assizes, &c. An estimate including the money invested in gaol buildings in Salford and Manchester, the money paid for pauperism connected with crime, and other money paid on account of crime, would, I think, prove the annual expenditure on crime in the two boroughs to be about £150,000. I am convinced that drunkenness and crime cost those boroughs at least £500,000 a year.

numbers. Let us see how far this amount would go in educating the juvenile population of those boroughs, from 4 to 14 years of age, and allowing an attendance at school for 10 years. The population of Manchester in 1850 was 302,182; and assuming the juveniles between those ages to form one-sixth of the whole, there are in that borough 50,363 juveniles. The juveniles between the same ages, in Salford, are estimated to be 11,666. In the two boroughs there are, therefore, in round numbers, 62,000 juveniles from 4 to 14 years of age, and their education, at 4d. per head per week, would be 16s. a year each,* and altogether £49,600.

It thus appears that the yearly amount necessary to educate the *entire* juvenile population of the two boroughs from 4 to 14 years of age, during a period of 10 years, is actually less by £15,453† than the yearly cost of crime in those boroughs. The average cost per head of the 6,311 offenders was £10 6s., but the estimated cost per head of educating the entire juvenile population, from 4 to 14 years of age, is only 16s. The criminal in Salford and Manchester thus appears to cost £9 10s. a year more than the scholar.

If we add to the sum lost and spent through crime in those boroughs, (£65,053,) the amount therein spent in drink on Saturday nights, viz.—£211,848, there appears to be the enormous amount of £276,901 spent on drink and crime in one year. Perhaps a considerable portion of that amount might be saved for the purposes of education by paying operatives' wages on another day than Saturday.

Education cannot be given generally solely through private exertions and resources; and, in order to obviate the difficulties thus arising, the educational scheme of the National Public School Association, and that of the Committee of the Manchester and Salford Municipal Boroughs' Education Bill, have been proposed.

The National Public School Association "are labouring to promote the establishment, by law, in England and Wales, of a system of free schools, which supported by local rates, and managed by local committees, specially elected for that purpose by the ratepayers, shall impart secular instruction only, leaving to parents, guardians, and religious teachers, the inculcation of doctrinal religion, to afford opportunities for which the schools shall be closed at stated times in each week."—(*Basis of the Association.*)

* This allows four weeks for holidays.

† By taking the juvenile population at 56,000 (see p. 23 *infra*) for the number requiring school instruction in Salford and Manchester, this amount would be increased to £20,253—in other words, it would cost the two boroughs £20,253 less to educate the greatest number of juveniles that would be found to receive free instruction, than it now costs for crime therein.

The Association propose to provide infant schools, day schools, evening schools, industrial schools, and schools for the deaf, the dumb, and the blind, and books, as well as instruction, free of charge.*

The Committee of the Manchester and Salford Boroughs' Education Bill have issued an address, from which I have compiled the following account of their scheme of education :—They propose to bring the needful elements of knowledge within the reach of every child in the two boroughs, in a comparatively short period of time, without money and without price; they also propose to secure, as far as possible, the services of the most competent instructors, and the adoption of the most approved methods of teaching; thus rendering their gratuitous instruction equally efficient and valuable to the receiver, with any which the ordinary rates of payment could provide. An application to parliament is intended to be made for powers to make the property of the two boroughs available for those purposes by means of a *school rate*. In making this provision for the entire population, it is proposed to make available, as far as may be found practicable and expedient, the existing school accommodation. The committee propose further to supply existing deficiencies of school accommodation by exciting, as far as possible, the same voluntary liberality which has furnished the existing buildings, and where that resource is found to be inadequate, by buildings erected at the expense of the ratepayers. It is not anticipated that any large demand would be made upon the rate for building purposes at present. The entire collection, management, and expenditure of the rate, would be vested in the councils of the two boroughs, who would have power to appoint, from among themselves, committees for this purpose.

The rateable value of property in the municipal borough of Manchester in 1850, amounted to £1,003,534; and the rateable value of property in Salford amounts to £183,000, making together £1,186,534.

The maximum rate fixed by the Boroughs' Education Bill, is 6d. in the pound, which would produce on the property in Manchester £25,088; on the property in Salford £4,575, and, in the two boroughs, £29,663; but if the committee require that amount clear for their educational purposes, to be raised by a separate rate, the rate must be increased 20 per cent. to meet the loss and expense attendant upon its collection.

In Salford and Manchester, there are 62,000 juveniles from 4 to 14 years of age. This number of juveniles may be thus apportioned :—

* I have no means of correctly ascertaining the amount of rate which would be required to support these schools, and to supply books and instruction.

At common Day Schools.	At superior Schools.	At Work.	Not at Work, nor at School.
26,000	6,000	8,000	22,000

Those juveniles at common day schools, those at work, and those neither at work nor at school, making together 56,000, ought to be provided for by the educational rate. Free evening schools are, as I have before observed, required for those persons who are employed in factory and other labour during the day. Fifty-six thousand scholars, at 4d. per head per week, would cost £44,800 a year, to produce which a rate of 9½d. would be required, and an additional rate for school accommodation would be required as further accommodation would be provided. To make a clear income of £44,800 a year, the rate of 9½d. must be increased 20 per cent., and it would therefore be a rate of 11d. This estimate allows for a ten years' attendance at school for the 56,000 juveniles; but the average attendance at school would be much under that number, and, consequently, a proportionate reduction would be made in the rate.

It is estimated that in the two boroughs, there are only 31,000 juveniles, from 4 to 14 years of age, who would require the aid of the educational rate. The following calculation, which has been made by the Rev. C. Richson, the promoter of the Boroughs' Education Bill, shows how that number is obtained.

"If we assume that one-sixth of the population represents the children between 4 and 14 years of age, who would probably avail themselves of free education, (supposing such to be provided,) we have.....requiring education	M. 50,000
	s. 12,000
	62,000

"But it must be borne in mind, that this assumes a conti- nuance of daily attendance at school for <i>ten years</i> , under all circumstances; whereas, at present, the average pe- riod of school attendance, in the class of children with whom we are mainly concerned, does not reach <i>three</i> <i>years</i> —and hence it is evident that, if the average school attendance could be raised to <i>five years</i> , or one-half the school age, the number of children who ought to be constantly under instruction, and for whom school ac- commodation is necessary, is	M. 25,000
	s. 6,000

Total.....	31,000"
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If Mr. Richson is correct in his estimate, as to the probable number of children who would attend free schools, a *clear* rate of 5d. would be sufficient to cover the expense of their education, on the assumption that 4d. per head per week, for 48 weeks in the year, would be sufficient. I think, however, that the rate would have to be increased, if free evening schools should be provided, and doubtless they are required.

The sum of 4d. per head per week, which is to be raised by the rate of 5d., would not be sufficient alone to provide free education ; but it is thought that, with grants from the Committee of Council on Education, a weekly payment of 4d. per head would provide both tuition and books free of expense to the scholars.

Though the proposed taxation for supplying free education to all classes of the community would undoubtedly be a heavy burden to the ratepayers, still it would be less weighty than that of crime, which at any cost ought to be removed.

Under an improved prison discipline much good may be done in the reformation of prisoners, and in many instances permanent reformations have been effected solely by prison discipline. The brief period of imprisonment to which the majority of offenders are sentenced, is the cause why prison discipline generally fails, and hence the necessity of long terms of imprisonment being frequently required.

Connected with the prison of "La Roquette," in Paris, is an institution called the "Patronage Society," which has been formed voluntarily by benevolent individuals. Its object is to guide and provide for young prisoners on their liberation. Each boy has a patron who exercises an influence over him, even during his confinement, by counsel and exhortation. On his being set at liberty, his patron comes or sends for him, and places him in some situation for which he has fitted himself in the workshop of the penitentiary. Instead of being thrust out of the gates with rags on their backs, with which they entered them, and with just sufficient money to lead them into temptation, as was formerly the case, the poor lads are at present furnished with decent clothes, and gain at once an employment and a respectable livelihood. Their patrons visit them frequently, superintend their conduct, and by the affectionate sympathies they show them, encourage and confirm them in a virtuous course of life. They call them their children, and the reciprocal affection which often springs up between the little outcasts and their protectors is really very beautiful. Numerous cases have occurred where youthful vagabonds and thieves have become exemplary characters through the parental kindness of the gentlemen who have adopted

them. One instance is mentioned, in the society's reports, of a former inmate of "La Roquette" having formed an attachment to an amiable and industrious girl, when not having money to meet the expenses of his marriage, his patron gave him the means, was present himself at the wedding, and furnished the lodging of the new-married couple with chairs, tables, a bedstead, and some linen. The most unequivocal proof of the value of the society's exertions consists in this,—that before its existence, out of 217 youths that were liberated between the years 1831 and 1833, 99 were re-committed several times and for grave offences; whereas since the association has entered upon its mission, out of 269 lads taken under their charge only 51 were again sentenced to a second term of imprisonment. And it is to be observed that the 99 recommitments above specified were merely those which took place in Paris, under the real names of the offenders; how many more happened in the provinces, and under false names, cannot be ascertained. But all who are positively re-committed, whilst under the superintendence of the society are known, as they cannot quit their situations without the fact being communicated to their patrons. A report of the society affirms that of those who have been guilty of no fresh transgression against the law, 58 were not only laborious, economical, and submissive to their masters, but join to those qualities virtues which must gain them general esteem; that 124, without being so remarkable, are nevertheless excellent young men, and good workmen, who give every kind of satisfaction to their employers and protectors; so that out of 269 juvenile delinquents there are 182 thoroughly reformed, who are the joy and glory of the society. The remaining 33 are represented as very equivocal characters, some of whom reject the patronage of their benefactors altogether, and others refuse hard work, and constantly change masters. Nevertheless the account, upon the whole, is delightful.*

There is also another institution in France which has been very useful in reclaiming juvenile offenders from criminal pursuits—I allude to the *Colonie Agricole* at Mettray. When a juvenile under 14 years of age is apprehended, the first thing done is to enquire into the quality of the instruction he has received, and if it appears that he does not know the difference between right and wrong, then instead of being tried and treated as a criminal, he is sent to that institution, and there taught and trained so as to be fitted for being a useful member of society. It acts upon the principle that unless society teaches children the difference between right and wrong, the latter should

* Altered from an article on the Prisons and Penitentiaries in France, in Blackwood's Magazine, August, 1837, page 157.

not be punished as criminals. In this country all offenders of sound intellect, no matter how young or old, or wise, or ignorant, are alike supposed by a far-fetched fiction of the law, to know the difference between right and wrong, and the boy of 14 is as much amenable to the laws of the country as the man of 40; both are looked upon as criminals when they have committed an offence. In this respect the measures adopted in the Colonie Agricole, for training young and ignorant offenders, are much superior to our own.

One of the principal causes which effaces the good impressions made on the minds of offenders in prison, is intercourse with unreclaimed criminals, and other persons of bad character.

A few days before any prisoner is discharged from the New Bailey Prison, Salford, notice of his intended discharge is sent to one or more of his relatives, or friends, and it may be thought that common regard, and the opportunity thus afforded for his protection, would induce them to meet him at the prison, to prevent his going again into bad company, and to exercise their influence upon him to restore him to his lost position in society; but very few young offenders, released from the above prison in a period of six months, were there met by parents or friends, as is shown by the following return.

Return * showing the number of male prisoners, not exceeding the age of 18 years, who were discharged from the New Bailey Prison, Salford, during a period of six calendar months, in the year 1850; and also the number received at the prison by parents and friends, and the number not so received by parents or friends.

Total number of prisoners discharged	206
With parents.....	159
Received from prison by parents.	40
Not so received by parents	119
With friends.....	22
Received from prison by friends.....	12
Not so received by friends	10
Without parents and friends	25
Not received from prison by parents or friends.....	25
Total number not received from prison by parents or friends (being three-fourths of the number discharged)	154

* Prepared at my request by Mr. Mitchell, Governor of the Prison.

It thus appears that out of 206 male prisoners, not exceeding the age of 18 years, who were discharged from that prison during a period of six calendar months last year, 181 had parents and friends living, but only 52 of that number were met by parents and friends; and 154 out of the 206 were discharged without being met by any relatives or friends. The majority of the 154 offenders, if not all of them, are believed to have connected themselves, soon after their discharge, with criminals then at large.

The return is not conclusive evidence that those offenders who were not met at the prison by parents or friends were entirely destitute, or uncared for, nor that such offenders immediately after their release recommenced criminal practices; but the fact of their not having been so met raises a probability that they were not by any means well cared for.

Discharged offenders frequently resort to beer-houses or other customary meeting places for thieves,* without having had time, since their release, to reflect upon the impropriety and penalties of future misdeeds, and when stimulated by intoxicating drink, and bad advice and example, they plunge recklessly, and almost unconsciously, into new careers of crime, which cannot fail to entail upon them the terrible consequences of their guilt.

These remarks are corroborated by the following narrative:—A. B. was the son of a respectable dissenting minister in Manchester. When aged about seventeen years, the son committed a felonious offence, for which he was imprisoned in the New Bailey Prison; and after he had been discharged he was met at the prison gates by some of his criminal companions. On the night of the very same day on which he had left prison, he and his companions committed a burglary at Ordsall Hall, for which they were apprehended, and were committed for trial at the Liverpool assizes in August, 1849, at which this young man and one of his companions were found guilty of the offence, and were sentenced to transportation for seven years.†

Prisoners' Relief Societies have been established to prevent discharged and reformed offenders from associating again with persons of bad character, and to relieve such offenders until honest employment has been ob-

* Keepers of low lodging-houses are known to meet juvenile offenders on their discharge from prison, and to lead them into haunts of vice. A little boy, discharged from the Liverpool prison, immediately afterwards ran away from his parents, and went to a low lodging-house.

† For further information on the bad effects of discharged offenders meeting criminal companions, see the statements of prisoners in the report of the Rev. J. Clay, of Preston, for 1850, pp. 5, 7, 8, 14, 17.

tained for them ; and these powerful auxiliaries, in the reform of culprits, have been very successful.

“ I venture to think,” says the Rev. J. Clay, of Preston, “ that the most unobjectionable mode of furnishing aid to discharged offenders is that which has been acted upon for years, and with the most happy results, by Mr. Wright, of Manchester, who, single-handed, by his own benevolent energy, and out of his own limited means, has rescued from continued degradation and crime more than a hundred criminals liberated chiefly from the Salford House of Correction.”

The “Worcestershire Prisoners’ Relief Society” has also been very serviceable in reforming criminals. Before a convicted prisoner leaves prison, the minister who has attended him reports to the visiting magistrates, if the case justifies the report, that he (the minister) feels assured that the prisoner repents for the past, and has resolutions of good conduct for the future. If the visiting magistrates concur in the minister’s views, they request the clergyman of the parish to which the prisoner is about to go, or if he is a dissenter, then a minister named by the prisoner, to procure labour for him, and as an inducement to an employer, the clergyman or minister is requested to advance a weekly sum, and to pay it to an employer ; but if the clergyman or minister cannot procure work for the prisoner soon after his release, a sum, not above 4s. a week, is given him for his support until labour is procured for him. The weekly allowance is paid so long as the visiting magistrates approve, but not above three months, unless sanctioned by the committee ; and it ceases if the prisoner again misconducts himself. Before a prisoner, under 16 years of age, returns to any place within the county, the attendance, at the gaol, of one of his parents, or, if an orphan, of his next of kin, is desired, and upon his release he is placed under their protection, and they are allowed remuneration for travelling expenses and loss of time. The last report of the society states that the exertions made to get parents or friends to attend at the gaol, on the discharge of a young prisoner had, for the most part, failed, and the children were turned into the street without guide or director. From the establishment of the society in 1840, up to October, 1850, 245 prisoners were relieved ; and a considerable number was reclaimed through the aid of the society.

A similar society is formed in Preston, and I am indebted to the Rev. J. Clay for the following account of it :—“ A few years ago I established in a very humble way a ‘ Prisoners’ Relief Society.’ We had only 10 or 12 members, quite as many as I wanted, and they were almost entirely of the superior, intelligent, and actively humane *operative* class. The society

answered its intended purpose very well, and has only become inoperative *for want of something to do*. Though the society scarcely exists, I can always avail myself of two or three of its members whenever a prisoner is about to be discharged, who may appear deserving of assistance, in regard to obtaining employ, &c. What we do, therefore, is done very quietly, and no *bonus* is held out to designing parties, as an inducement to throw themselves in our way. In the last year we have not had occasion to take hand more than four or five cases."

Industrial schools, national schools, and prisoners' relief societies, might be rendered extremely useful both in Salford and Manchester. Efforts are now being made to erect a Mechanics' Institution and a Temperance Hall under one roof in Salford, and there certainly appears sufficient reason for the erection of both. I have shown that there is a wide field in both Salford and Manchester for the labours of the temperance body; and though it has already unquestionably done much good, much more yet remains to be done. I wish to suggest to the promoters of the new Mechanics' Institution and Temperance Hall that they would do well to form, in addition to other classes, music classes on as large a scale as possible. In many towns in England choral and instrumental societies have been formed, and they have, doubtless, tended to improve the habits of the people. Under the direction of an able musician, classes might be rendered useful to those who attend them, and probably be rendered profitable to the institution from occasional concerts.

The Free Library and Museum in Peel Park, Salford, have proved a great boon to the working classes of that borough. The daily attendance of visitors has gradually increased, and it seems probable that the present extensive rooms of that institution will have to be enlarged ere long. Through the active exertions of the Mayor of Manchester, and other advocates of progress, a similar institution has just been established in that borough, and no doubt much good will result therefrom. *Females* should be induced to attend those institutions as much as possible, and a great improvement would be made by allotting to them *separate reading rooms*.

It will take many years to elevate the depraved portions of the population above their present position, but this in itself is a strong reason for immediate reform; and even after all our exertions "it will be evident to all men," in the words of the citizens' memorial to Edward VI., "that beggary and thievery do abound."

